

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

At a meeting of the National Security Council February 23, the President expressed an interest in sophisticated surveillance equipment which might be used to detect explosives or other materials which could be used by airplane saboteurs. Is equipment of this type available, and just what are its capabilities? Can the United States Government make this equipment available to various airlines, and are there any restrictions on doing this? Specifically, could dissemination include foreign as well as domestic carriers?

The President would appreciate a report at your early convenience.

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Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Attorney General

SECRET

February 24, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: William Watts

SUBJECT: Equipment for Baggage Surveillance

At the NSC meeting yesterday, the President asked whether we could make available to other airlines sophisticated equipment to check baggage. You will recall that this emerged from his query as to the situation on the Swiss airplane explosion.

I asked Russ Ash to check, on a very informal and low-key basis, as to where in the U. S. government responsibility for development and disposition of this equipment lies. It turns out to be a function of both the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, and the Federal Aviation Administration, which is under the Transportation Department.

Accordingly, I have drafted a memorandum from you to Secretary Volpe, which expresses the President's interest in this subject and asks Volpe to provide appropriate information (Tab A).

In view of the potential interest of the Attorney General in this matter, I have made him info addressee.

After the meeting, Dick Helms called me about this item and we agreed that it would be better if the request came from you rather than him -- since a query from his end might raise unwarranted speculation.

Recommendation: That you sign the attached memorandum to Secretary Volpe at Tab A.

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